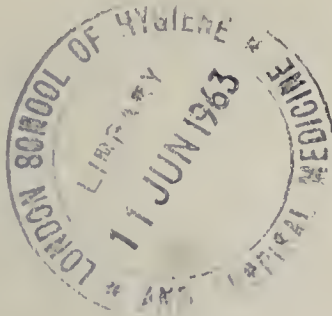


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BOROUGH OF TENTERDEN

KENT



ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958



13

BOROUGH OF TENTERDEN (KENT)

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and of
the Chief Public Health Inspector for the Year 1958

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1958.

Home Population

The Register General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 4,800 which represents an increase of 140 over that of the previous year.

Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 55 and was less by 15 than in the previous year. The crude birth-rate of 11.46 was accordingly lower than that of 15.02 in 1957, and the adjusted rate of 12.03 taken from the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, was also much lower than that of 15.8 for 1957. (It should, however, be kept in mind that these and the following figures are too small for the purpose of statistical comparisons and that small fluctuations influence the rates much more than they would if the population were large.

Stillbirths and Rate

There were two female stillbirths one legitimate, the other illegitimate, and the rate was accordingly 35.09 compared with that of 21.6 for England and Wales. (This is a good example how very small figures can influence a rate disproportionately to that of a larger population).

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no infant deaths, which compensates for the occurrence of the two stillbirths, as stillbirths and infant deaths immediately after birth are closely related.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was also nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.

Total Deaths and Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 77 (46 M., 31 F.), and the crude deathrate was accordingly 16.04; when adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution, the rate becomes 7.22, and is considerably lower than that of 11.7 for England and Wales. The high crude deathrate is accounted for by the fact that there is within the Borough a Hospital for the Chronic Sick.

The chief cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, which are normally the terminal causes of death amongst the aged; there were in all 39 deaths from these causes.

Coronary Thrombosis was the cause of 10 of those deaths i.e. 25%. The ages at death ranged from 65 to 80 years. The cause is still obscure, but it is thought that a combination of factors may be involved, predominating amongst which may be (1) prolonged mental tension (2) excessive smoking and (3) excessive fat intake.

Coronary Atheroma also is causing an increasing number of deaths and may be due to excessive fat or food intake associated with insufficient exercise.

Cancer was the cause, as expected, of the second highest number of deaths i.e. 11, the majority of which were amongst the aged. Procrastination by patients in seeking medical advice, allied with the insidious nature of the disease, is probably the most common factor associated with late diagnosis when treatment, at best, can only be palliative.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus caused 3 (2M, 1F) of those deaths. The ages at death were 57, 67 and 68 years. The hypothesis that excessive smoking of cigarettes over a period of many years is a primary or contributory cause has many advocates.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual mortality.

There was no death due to Infectious Disease.

Infectious Diseases

The Borough was remarkably free from Infectious Disease throughout the year. Only two cases of Measles and four sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

A new era has been reached in the prevention, control and treatment of all the serious infectious diseases endemic in this Country, with the exception of Influenza for which, however, a vaccine may be prepared in the immediate future.

Diphtheria has virtually been eradicated by immunisation, which has been a great achievement of modern medical science; for example no case has occurred in the Borough for well over ten years.

Mass immunisation against Poliomyelitis has not yet been completed but a preliminary assessment of its effect as a barrier against the disease provides firm ground for hope and optimism. For example, no case occurred in the Borough or surrounding district throughout the year.

It is hoped, too, that the modern vaccines being used against Whooping Cough will also be successful in the prevention of this distressing children's disease.

All these preventive inoculations are available gratis at the Child Welfare Centre or from the family Doctor. The Health Visitors are the key personnel for propaganda and the personal persuasion of the parents, with whom by the nature of their duties they are in intimate contact.

Tuberculosis

Three new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified, two of whom were in the age group 65 years and upwards.

There were no non-respiratory or bovine cases. The area has been specified by the Ministry of Agriculture to the effect that only designated milks may be sold within the Borough. This was a great step forward in the struggle against Bovine Tuberculosis which has caused untold mortality, morbidity and disability in the past.

The number of open cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis with positive sputa who would infect others, is rapidly diminishing owing to improved facilities for diagnosis and detection; in this latter respect, the Mass Radiography Service is performing valuable work.

B.C.G. vaccination is offered to children before they leave school and should also be of value in prevention at a vulnerable age. The improved nutrition of children, which has never been at a higher level, is also a powerful preventive factor.

Modern treatment is very effective unless the disease has become too advanced and is facilitated by the immediate availability of Hospital beds.

That there was only one death from Tuberculosis is a reflection of the efficacy of modern treatment.

In conclusion, I would wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Public Health Services, and also to thank the staff for their efficiency and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,
1, Elwick Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 1485

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1958

Area:- 8,946 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| The Resident Population | ... | ... | ... | 4,800 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books | ... | ... | ... | 1,689 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | £59,328 |
| Sum Represented by a Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | £243 |

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Tenterden Borough is a corporate member of the Cinque Ports as a Limb of the Ancient Town of Rye, and as such has retained its identity, its historial traditions and characteristic charm.

The Borough is largely a residential district, but being surrounded by wide rural areas affords a convenient and good shopping centre. Its chief business interests are associated with those of agriculture, as being the main industry.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | | <u>Tenterden Borough District</u> | <u>England and Wales</u> |
|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Live Births | 55 | 32 | 23 | Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | 11.46 (Adjusted Rate 12.03) | 16.4 |
| (a) Legitimate | 49 | 28 | 21 | | | |
| (b) Illegitimate | 6 | 4 | 2 | | | |
| Stillbirths | 2 | - | 2 | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | 35.09 | 21.6 |
| (a) Legitimate | 1 | - | 1 | | | |
| (b) Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 | | | |
| Total live and still- births | 57 | 32 | 25 | | | |
| Deaths | 77 | 46 | 31 | Death rate per 1,000 resident population | 16.04 (Adjusted Rate 7.22) | 11.7 |
| Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births | - | Not available |
| Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 live births | - | 22.5 |
| (a) Legitimate | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate) | - | |
| (b) Illegitimate | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate) | - | |
| Deaths of infants under Four Weeks of age | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 live births | - | |
| (a) Legitimate | - | - | - | | | |
| (b) Illegitimate | - | - | - | | | |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | | | | | 10.91% | |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | | ... | ... | ... | 11 | |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | | ... | ... | - | |
| Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | | | ... | ... | - | |
| Deaths from Measles | | ... | ... | ... | - | |

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | 4 |

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TENTERDEN BOROUGH

DURING 1958

| ALL CAUSES | | | | Males | Females |
|------------|---|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| | | | | 46 | 31 |
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | ... | - | 1 |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | - | - |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | - | - |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | - | - |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | - | - |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | - | - |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | - | - |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | - | - |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | - | 3 |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | - | 1 |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | - | - |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | 5 | 6 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | 5 | 4 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 20. | Other heart disease | ... | ... | 8 | 8 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | - | - |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | 3 | - |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | - | - |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | - | - |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | - | - |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | - | - |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | 5 | 4 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | - | - |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | - | - |

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality 1958

| <u>Age Periods</u> | <u>New Cases</u> | | | | <u>Deaths</u> | | | | <u>Total Cases on Register</u> | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----|------------------------|----|--------------------|----|------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| | <u>Respiratory</u> | | <u>Non-Respiratory</u> | | <u>Respiratory</u> | | <u>Non-Respiratory</u> | | <u>Respiratory</u> | | <u>Non-Respiratory</u> | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32 | 14 | 2 | 2 |
| 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| 15 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| 25 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| 35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| 55 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | | | | |
| 65 and upwards | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| Total | 3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | | | | |

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Service visited the Borough during May 1958.

MINIATURE FILMS TAKEN

| <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 599 | 674 | 1,273 |

ATTENDING MASS RADIOGRAPHY
FOR THE FIRST TIME

| <u>Total</u> | <u>%</u> |
|--------------|----------|
| 771 | 60.56 |

RESULTS

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Active Tuberculosis | 4 | - | 4 |
| Inactive Tuberculosis | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Cancer of lung | 1 | - | 1 |

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1958

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1944).

| Year of Birth | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | Total |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Completed a complete course of injections (whether Primary or Booster) 1944 - 1958 | - | 5 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 29 | 23 | 30 | 25 | 44 | 47 | 39 | 59 | 42 | 10 | 372 |
| 1953 or earlier | 36 | 30 | 48 | 57 | 58 | 33 | 30 | 22 | 31 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | 351 |

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1958

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the district who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958.

| Year of Birth | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | Others | Total |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| Given two injections | 3 | 40 | 37 | 34 | 40 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 19 | 23 | 18 | 22 | 57 | 61 | 44 | 52 | 542 |
| Given third injection | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 8 |

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation, Whooping Cough Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination figures for 1958 based on record cards.

| Year of Birth | Diphtheria Immunisation | | Smallpox Vaccination | | Whooping-cough Immunisation |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| | Primary | Reinforcing | Primary | Revaccination | Primary |
| 1958 | 10 | - | 16 | - | 21 |
| 1957 | 36 | - | 17 | - | 51 |
| 1956 | 4 | - | - | - | 7 |
| 1955 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 |
| 1954 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 1 |
| 1953 | - | 13 | - | - | - |
| 1952 | - | 8 | - | - | - |
| 1951 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| 1950 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1949 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| 1948 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| 1947 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 1946 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1945 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1944 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Before 1944 | - | - | 4 | 8 | - |
| Total 56 | | 30 | 39 | 11 | 81 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Considerable works of improvement were carried out by the water undertakers in relation to the filtration plant at Goudhurst, during the year, which unfortunately had the effect of discolouring the water supply from time to time, as and when deposits of manganese on the old filters were disturbed. However, the discolouration has now ceased and the water is of the highest standard of chemical and bacterial purity.

The following is an analysis of water samples taken during the year:-

| | <u>Bacteriological</u> | | <u>Chemical</u> | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| | <u>No.</u> | <u>Results</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Results</u> |
| Raw Water (private sources - wells) | 2 | 1 Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory (water not used) | 1 | Satisfactory |
| Treated Water (Statutory supply undertaking) | 12 | All very satisfactory | - | |

95% of dwellinghouses in the area are connected to the public piped water supplies.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

In relation to the reconstruction of the sewage outfall works at Rolvenden Road, Tenterden, the Consultant Engineers were instructed to draw up the contract documents, in order that the work could be put in hand as soon as possible. In order to relieve the combined sewerage system of the heavy loads imposed upon it, through becoming supercharged with storm water, two additional storm water overflows were constructed. These operate only in conditions of heavy rainfall and thus lessen the risk of severe damage to the sewers.

A length of 12" sewer was dredged and cleaned at a level section of the system, where silt and foreign bodies tend to accumulate. This operation, although costly, proved to be very successful in increasing the rate of flow of the drainage.

Housing

(i) New Dwellings

The erection of a further twenty Council houses at the Wayside Estate, St. Michaels, was at an advanced stage at the close of the year covered by this report. These dwellings will form part of the programme for housing persons now living in sub-standard accommodation, including the Fat Ox Corner Hutted Camp.

When completed, a total of 241 Council houses will have been erected since the last war.

Although the figure of 18 completed private dwellings during the year is appreciably lower than in previous years, the planning for development of additional private estates in the near future is exceptional.

(ii) Improvements and Conversions - Housing Act, 1949

Twelve schemes were submitted and approved during the year for improvements to elderly properties at a total cost of £3,942. Grants awarded amounted to £1,900.

(iii) Rent Act, 1957

Five applications by private tenants for Certificates of Disrepair in respect of their rented accommodation under the above Act were received and dealt with. Repairs have since been carried out in respect of four of the properties.

(iv) Housing Statistics

| | | | |
|-----|--|--------|------|
| (a) | Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts | | 41 |
| (b) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation | | 36 |
| (c) | Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense | | 28 X |
| (d) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action | | 8 |

X NOTE: Of the 28 houses referred to in (c) above, 12 refer to sub-standard hutments at the Fat Ox Corner Camp which will shortly be closed and the displaced persons rehoused at the new Wayside Council Housing Estate. Arrangements for site clearance will follow this action. 16 properties are the subject of Section 16 or 21 action - Housing Act, 1957.

4. West View Hospital

The West View Hospital is regularly visited and inspected for vermin infestation.

5. Hop-Pickers Encampments

Five of the original six camps were inspected prior to and during use, including W.C. accommodation, drying room facilities and refuse disposal. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory and huts were cleaned and/or limewashed before occupation. The sixth camp is now in disuse.

6. Eradication of Vermin

No cases of infestation by fleas or bugs was found or reported.

7. Milk Supplies

There were six registered distributors of milk within the Borough. Two of the supplies are Tuberculin Tested and/or Pasteurised and four distributors include the designation Sterilised.

Milk samples taken during the year satisfied the tests.

8. Inspection of Food and Food Preparing Establishments

All food establishments have been inspected during the year and are considered satisfactory.

Ice cream samples taken were satisfactorily graded. No ice cream is manufactured in the district.

There is one Slaughterhouse in the Borough, which is mainly used for casualty slaughtering. Slaughterhouse conditions are satisfactory.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed | 1 | - | 10 | 11 | 24 | - |
| Number inspected | - | - | 10 | 11 | 24 | - |
| <u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | 4.17% | - |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u> | | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption due to blown tins, deterioration and rail transport delays in hot weather:-

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|
| Cream Cheese | - | 1 lb. |
| Tinned Meat | - | 4 lbs. |
| Fresh Meat Imported | - | 77 lbs. |
| Fish | - | 48 lbs. |
| | | ----- |
| | | 130 lbs. |
| | | ----- |

Sanitary Inspection of the District

Details of Inspection work carried out:-

| | <u>No. of Visits</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hop-pickers Encampments | 10 |
| Bakehouses | 2 |
| Slaughterhouses | 46 |
| Other Food Preparing Establishments | 70 |
| Factories | 21 |
| Sanitary Conveniences | 41 |

| | <u>No. of Visits</u> |
|--|--------------------------|
| Drainage | 43 |
| Cesspools | 6 |
| Refuse Receptacles | 76 |
| Water Supply | 5 |
| Rodent Control | 177 |
| Infectious Diseases | 2 |
| Other visits - including new Buildings | 87 |
| Dwellings inspected for defects | 41 |
| | ----- |
| | 627 |
| | ----- |

10. Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provision as to health. (Including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | Number on Register | Inspection | Number of Written Notice | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|---|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| (i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 20 | 20 | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | - | - | - | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises). | - | - | - | - |

